JAZZ ON AN ISLAND: BARBADOS, JAMAICA, ST. LUCIA, BERMUDA

VENUS

VENUS Publisher, Charlene E. Cothran, top-center, with editors and supporters during the magazine's First Anniversary and Launch party, Atlanta, GA 1994.
Photos by Jena P. Jones

VOL. 10 NO. 4, 2004
01>
0 74470 90948 4

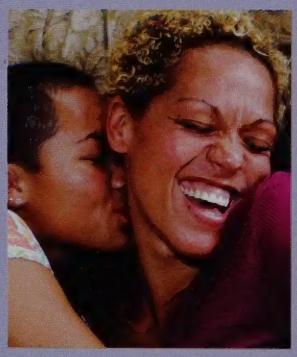
Let's Celebrate!

10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Brightest & Best!

Nathan Kerr
Karen Winckler
Karen Y. Buster
Michael A. Adams
Jeffrey Brown
Herndon L. Davis
Alexis De Veaux
Lee Hayes
Jenoyne Adams

where more than just cherry blossoms come out



WASHINGTON DC
THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

washington, dc

diversity is in bloom year round in washington.
for more info on great things to do in dc,
call 800.422.8644 ext 394 and request the
glbt travelers guide or visit www.prideindc.org.

celebrate the freedom to be. join us for
Laugh Out Loud Comedy Festival, April 12
and Youth Pride Day 2004, April 24.

Washington, DC Convention and Tourism Corporation

AmASSI Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 incorporation, and member of the Better Business Bureau of Los Angeles

Health, Wellness & Cultural Center

AmASSI

BLACK PEOPLE LET THE HEALING BEGIN

GET YOUR FREE AmASSI MEMBERSHIP CARD TODAY

AmASSI MEMBERSHIP BRINGS FREE* SERVICES & REWARDS:

FITNESS, WEIGHT TRAINING, KAROBICS, SELF-DEFENSE (Sessions for men, women & co-ed)

LIFE GUIDANCE & MENTAL WELLNESS COUNSELING (Individual, family, couples, youth). *These services are **free** and sliding-scale (pay what you can)

MATH & LITERACY TUTORING CLASSES

HIV/AIDS RISK & SPREAD REDUCTION WORKSHOPS, CONFIDENTIAL TESTING & PRE-POST TEST COUNSELING

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES/SPEAK OUTS/CONCERTS

YOUTH RITES OF PASSAGE

EMPOWERMENT GATHERINGS AFFIRMING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY (SGL, heterosexual, bisexual)

"You win in more ways than one at AmASSI"
Cleo Manago - CEO, Founder

9 THINGS TO DO TO BE A HEALTHY AFRICAN-AMERICAN

BE A CRITICAL THINKER and aware that in media (film, television, newspapers, magazines, etc.), public and private educational systems (schools) and some advertisements there are messages that may lead Black people to believe we are not as beautiful or as valuable as others.

Black parents talk with-not at-your children. Encourage their critical thinking capacity. Black children talk with-not at-your parents. Encourage their critical thinking capacity.

Exercise daily, drink plenty of water, and eat nutritious foods (fresh vegetables, low fat meats, minimal dairy products and sugar) during the week. Splurge, if you must, on weekends.

Be courageous, improve your life and seek wellness assistance. If you have food, sex, drama (fussing, fighting, violence) or substance use addictions, don't play yourself. Seek change.

If you are heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual and sexually active use protection (a fresh condom and water based lubricant). We live in the age of HIV, and for "us" it's growing. Yet it's 100% preventable.

If you already know you've been sexually active and unprotected – get a confidential HIV test and counseling.

Every time you pass a Brother or Sister in the street, even if they are homeless, speak. It won't cost you a thing.

Unlearn anti-Black thinking. Start with erasing the "N" word from your vocabulary. We are the descendants of enslaved Africans systematically turned against each other. We must actively counter this by affirming one another, even when doing so is a challenge.

If you are self-destructing -- overeating, oversexing, possibly depressed (listen up Brothers), or having a difficult time sustaining relationships, being a decent person or a good role model to children -- seek help. Doing so is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Open evening and weekend hours

FREE MEANS FREE. THERE ARE NO HIDDEN GIMMICKS. WIN PRIZES FOR ACHIEVING HEALTH. AT AmASSI, WE BELIEVE OUR COMMUNITY DESERVES EASY ACCESS TO GOOD HEALTH, WELL-BEING, SELF RESPECT, SOLUTIONS & PROSPERITY!

AmASSI Health, Wellness & Cultural Center - National Headquarters
160 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301
310.419.1969
1.800.786.7448 toll free

Los Angeles
New York City
Oakland/Bay Area
Johannesburg, South Africa

www.amassi.com

AmASSI
Health, Culture, Affirmation

features

11 **The Karen Winckler** *Mindset*

"Karen Winckler is one of those people with a sense of freedom. I get the feeling that she believes that the sky is the limit and that she can do anything she sets her mind to. She's right. And this is a woman who has set her mind to doing lots of things."

16 **Jazz On An Island**

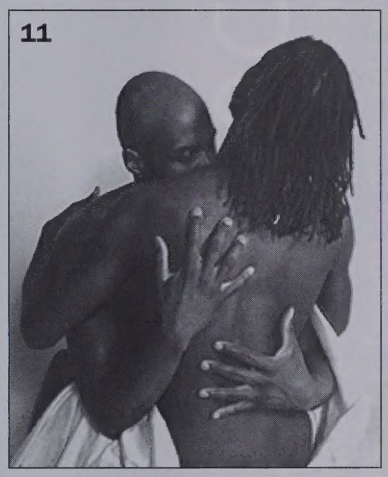
"If you're over 30 and have never experienced jazz on an island, you have no idea what you're missing. Either way, if you're a fan of jazz, the Caribbean, reggae and R&B, this story is a must. Of all the incredible destinations throughout the Caribbean, the easternmost island of Barbados is my favorite, hands down, thus far. Like all of the islands, the locals radiate with an incredible degree of charm and the most gracious hospitality."

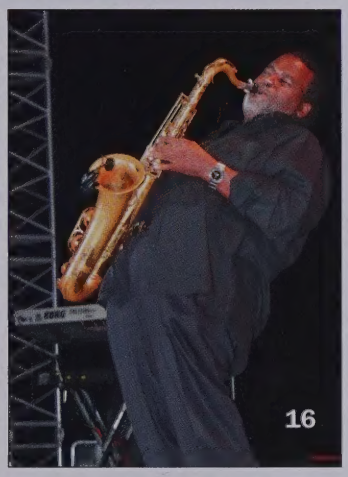
44 **The Low Down** *On Nathan Kerr*

If you live in the metro New York, DC or Chicago areas, chances are you have witnessed the artistry of Nathan Kerr. Unlike Picasso or Jacob Lawrence, Mr. Kerr's creative works can be viewed in safe-sex posters, condom packs, flyers and postcards.

And you thought
Baileys could only heat things up.
BAILEYS
Let Your Senses Guide You
Drink responsibly.
© 2001 Imported by Paddington, Ltd., Stamford, CT, Baileys Irish Cream Liqueur, 17% Alc. by Vol., 34 Proof

Table of Contents





departments

14 Road Show
Different. That was the name of the poem written about Karen Y. Buster. It's verses include lines like "look at me, what do you see, exactly the person you want me to be... but, that's just your reality. I am innovative, I am strong-willed and well-skilled."

49 Reach
Jeffrey Brown, AIDS activist and Founder and President of House of Groove is a man on a mission to increase HIV/AIDS awareness in communities of color. Brown's company, House of Groove is a lifestyle marketing company that specializes in safer sex products and related programming.

38 ShelfLife
Black, Gay & Christian; An Inspirational Guidebook To Daily Living by Herndon L. Davis; *Simon Says:A Novel of Intrigue, Betrayal & Murder* by Collen Dixon; *Warrior Poet A Biography Of Audre Lorde* by Alexis De Veaux; *Selah's Bed: A Novel* by Jenoyne Adams; *The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism* by V. Labaton & D. Lundy Martin; *Passion Marks* by Lee Hayes.

50 Legendary
"I speak here of poetry as a revelatory distillation of experience, not the sterile word play that, too often, the white fathers distorted the word poetry to mean."

VENUS

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief CHARLENE COTHRAN
Assistant to Publisher Kevin Chamberlain

EDITORIAL

Copy Editor *C. E. Cothran*

Contributing Writer *Michael A. Adams, Jeffrey Brown , Darren Frei, Jamal, Ana Otis*

Photography Cover images by Jena P. Jones *Tina Paul, Karen Winckler*

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

National Advertising Director *Charlene Cothran Higher Ground Marketing Group 609/695-4500*

PRODUCTION

Art Director *Higher Ground*
Production Manager *Creative Group*

CIRCULATION

Director of Circulation *Marian Farrah*

New Subscribers, Address Changes, Back Issue Orders *(609) 695-4500 or www.venusmagazine.com*

COTHRAN Inc. COMMUNICATIONS
~ informing, inspiring, uplifting

Venus is published 4 times per year by
Cothran Communications, Inc.
P. O. Box 4167
Hamilton, NJ 08610
609/695-4500 / Fax 609/695-4556

Need help with your subscription?
If you have questions about your current subscription, call 609-695-4500, send change of address to contact@venusmagazine.com or mail to Venus Magazine, P. O. Box 4167, Hamilton, NJ 08610.

1.609.695.4500

SUBSCRIBE

VENUSMAGAZINE.COM

Yes!

KALETRA #1 PRESCRIBED* KALETRA

kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)

Still undetectable. Still in control.

Still undetectable

The virus is under control. My HIV therapy is still working.
And KALETRA is helping to make a difference.

Your results may vary.

KALETRA is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken with Halcion®, Hismanal®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Rythmol®, Seldane®, Tambocor™, Versed®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, ergot derivatives or products containing St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription, and herbal preparations you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which can be fatal, have been reported. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity were: abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. This is not a complete list of reported side effects.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing of HIV to others.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

*Based on IMS HEALTH National Prescription Audit Plus for Protease Inhibitor Class. July 2002–January 2003

1-866-KALETRA (525-3872)

www.KALETRA.com

Abbott Virology™ From Research to Reality

Abbott Laboratories
Abbott Park, IL 60064

©2003 Abbott Laboratories

03A-036-6834-2

March 2003

Printed in USA

KALETRA®

(lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information
KALETRA®
(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD_4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
  - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
  - Halcion® (triazolam)
  - Hismanal® (astemizole)
  - Orap® (pimozide)
  - Propulsid® (cisapride)
  - Rythmol® (propafenone)
  - Seldane® (terfenadine)
  - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
  - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- **Other Special Considerations:**

  KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

  Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

* The brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Abbott Laboratories. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse Abbott Laboratories or its products.

Ref.: 03-5239-R8

03A-036-6510-1 **MASTER**

Revised: January, 2003

ABBOTT LABORATORIES
NORTH CHICAGO, IL 60064, U.S.A.

03B-036-6834-2 **MASTER**
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

the karen winckler mindset

words by Ana Otis

There are powerful forces all around us, and as she enters the room, I feel as if I am about to be caught up in a whirlwind of words, fun and ideas. It's not that she looks particularly funny... no. It's something intangible. She sits down across from me and I feel like it's a rare treat. As if a bird has perched quietly across from me, eager to share her secrets and I feel as if I have to hurry... as if the moment will disappear in a flutter of wings.

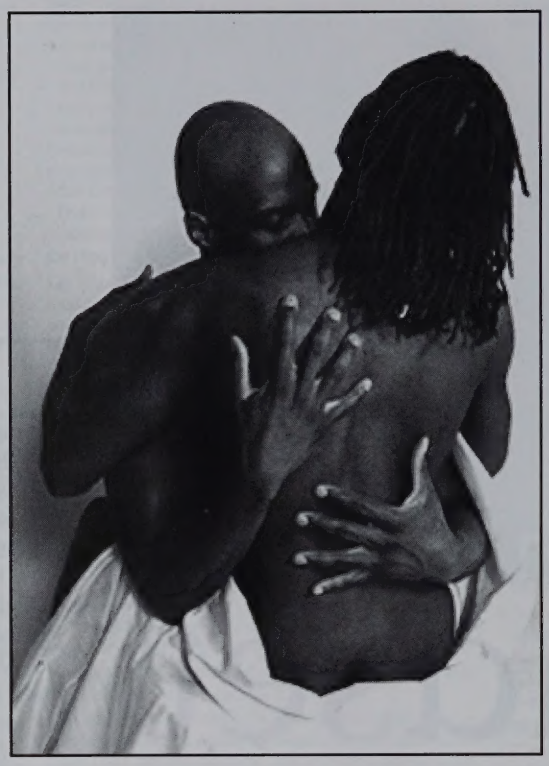
She has hypnotic eyes. She is passionate about every topic she discusses. She speaks to me of her truths, some being different from my truths. I pay extra special attention, eager to learn something new.

She speaks to me about the Church of Religious Science, which she has recently discovered, and makes me feel instantly intrigued by it. I almost agree to attend a service, even though I have not visited a church in a year and haven't intended to.

Karen Winckler is one of those people with a sense of freedom. I get the feeling that she believes that the sky is the limit and that she can do anything she sets her mind to. She's right. And this is a woman who has set her mind to doing lots of things.

Born in Newark, New Jersey in February 1964, Karen was raised in East and West Orange by her parents, Thomas and Essie Mae. She is the baby of the family. There is a 9 year span between her and the sibling closest to her in age. She can trace her love of music to this time; remembers grooving in her crib to the

music introduced to her by her 4 older siblings; knows that she was singing before she spoke. She still harbors dreams of becoming an "ethnomusicologist" or DJ to the rest of us. "There's so much nice music in the world. I'd just like to put it together and have something where people can just listen and feel good. Beautiful songs, soothing stuff like india.arie, and Seal... he's got some beautiful lyrics. Dre from OutKast. Have you heard the *Love Below*?" she asks... "It's so beautiful ... he opens himself up"...



I'm interested in her own word styling; have read some of her poems online at Kuma2.net, and ask about it. It turns out that she is having a book published. *When You Just Gotta Blow Your Nose... Poems, Musings and Expression*. She explains. "They are the physical manifestation of my snot," she laughs "for you to experience." We're laughing hysterically - she has a strange sense of humor. "There's some stuff that I wrote over time, and I'm ready to put out to the public. I write about everything... I never really read poetry, never really liked it... I have my own style. I write about things that I'm feeling: like about sex; about being black in this country; about being a woman of color who loves other women."

She reads me *What If?*

What if?
The thought of giving my
love to you my heart my
soul my God I'm scared
For once that happens
my friend I'm yours
You will hold a piece of
my existence in this
universe to twist to turn
to fuck
if you so desire
I will no longer live for
just me I'll live for you too
And what if you make me
happy - Oh God what if you nurture my spirit
love my tortured soul
understand my...
My God
Can I possibly withstand
such euphoria in my life?
And what might you
inspire within?
Might I actually discover
the unknown wonders of
my world inside your love?
Can it be that maybe it's
All right after all?
And what if I give my
love to you the thought
oh the thought it scares
me
For once that happens my
heart my soul my love
my God I'll be yours.

After some conversation about love, religion, the AIDS orphans of Africa and God, I tell her that I feel that she is clearly a woman who strives towards the deep. "Life is deep," Karen says "why not be where it is? This is a tough place to be in... fear is pounded into you from every angle... people believe the hype, and then, the way that we're raised...we're told a lot of things that aren't true, and we begin to believe that we are less than the wonderful divine awesome beings that we are and that combined with the fear that we're taught and inundated with, it's tough! Some churches will have you believe that going too deep is somehow against God and everything that you go to do that will liberate and free you are somehow bad. How many people are courageous enough to weed through all that stuff?"
"Are you?" I ask.

"That's what I'm about. We are all God as well as human."

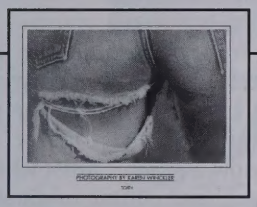
Growing up, Karen was a great student, and her family fully expected her to be the first in her family to graduate from an Ivy League school, Princeton University, which she attended, changing her major several times before leaving, sans degree. She was going to be a doctor. She still wants to help people, but in a different way. I think she wants to help people see themselves and to grow. She is now excited by "the affirmation that "I'm an artist and I don't have to be anything else. I can make a wonderful contribution to society by creating and that's a beautiful, wonderful thing to do and it's not less than anything else. Some of the smartest people on earth are artists!" exclaims Karen, "Because I was always so smart and had all these

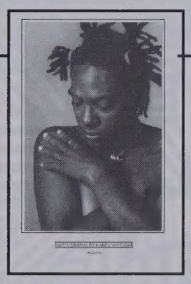
brains, I developed the feeling that I had to do something big with it because I was given so much - I have to be a doctor, or run some organization that's going to change everything in the world! I had to weed through that."

Karen feels that perhaps her journey into photography was born out of being silenced and invisible as a child. "I couldn't speak my mind, speak up... I just had to be pretty, be cute, and be silent. So I became a shutterbug. I felt like that was my expression. I used to take pictures of my world." She was given a 126 camera as a gift and used her pre-teen allowance to buy film and get her photos developed. "I think becoming a photographer was about exposure and accessibility, and how my journey has gone. Growing up, whatever cameras were in the house, my family didn't mind me picking up the cameras and using them – the old Polaroid's that used the disposable flashes, 110 mm cameras. My brother brought back a Mamiya 35 mm from Thailand where he was stationed in the Air Force, and I fell in love. Again, accessibility – he didn't mind my using it whenever I wanted. In high school, I asked for a Yashica 35 mm outfit of my own for Christmas and my mother bought it for me."

Armed with comfortability behind the camera she learned a tremendous amount at Princeton, in "a wonderfully comprehensive darkroom course...I learned techniques and tricks of the trade." She rattles off the names of her influences: Margaret Bourke-White, Gordon Parks. She speaks of her fondness for the work of Henri Cartier Bresson... she likes his candid style, his capturing of the essence of his subject. Her photo *Dancin' Doll* is modeled after this quality. "I was feeling like Bresson behind the camera at that moment. I'm struck by the evocative quality of her work. I feel that if I touch one of her photos, the thoughts and feelings of the subject will transfer to me. I ask her about the responsibility of having that gift. How does one keep pure that ability to draw out a soul and capture it? She credits love, humility, and constant self analysis for the ability to keep her photos honest and true. Considering an ad by Revlon featuring bodies of women weaved together inspired Karen to do a similar shoot, using all black men as the subjects. "This was a time when I found myself thinking about the beauty of men." This shoot produced one commercial work, *Sensual Men*. I inquire as to whether she felt the duty to clarify for the general public that the subjects are both male, in a photo that doesn't make this fact so clear. "Yes I do, damn it," she laughs, "It's my duty! I kinda think of my work as sociological photography because I want to change people's minds about things." She admits to purposely pushing people buttons to open minds and hearts. Karen is a rebel with a cause... love.

> "Life is deep, why not be where it is? This is a tough place to be in. Fear is pounded into you from every angle... people believe the hype, and then, the way that we're raised...we're told a lot of things that aren't true."





I ask her if she thinks she can make a difference. "I already have"... she says with a twinkle in her eyes... and then, with a flutter of her dazzling wings, she's off.

'What If' by Karen Winckler. Copyright 1999. Reprinted with permission from Author.

by KAREN WINCKLER photography
SPECIAL OFFER!
VENUS READERS
Enter Code: VENUS
and receive a
10% discount when you order prints from Karen's online gallery.
http://karenwinckler.com
1 (888) 411-7067

Karen Y. Buster

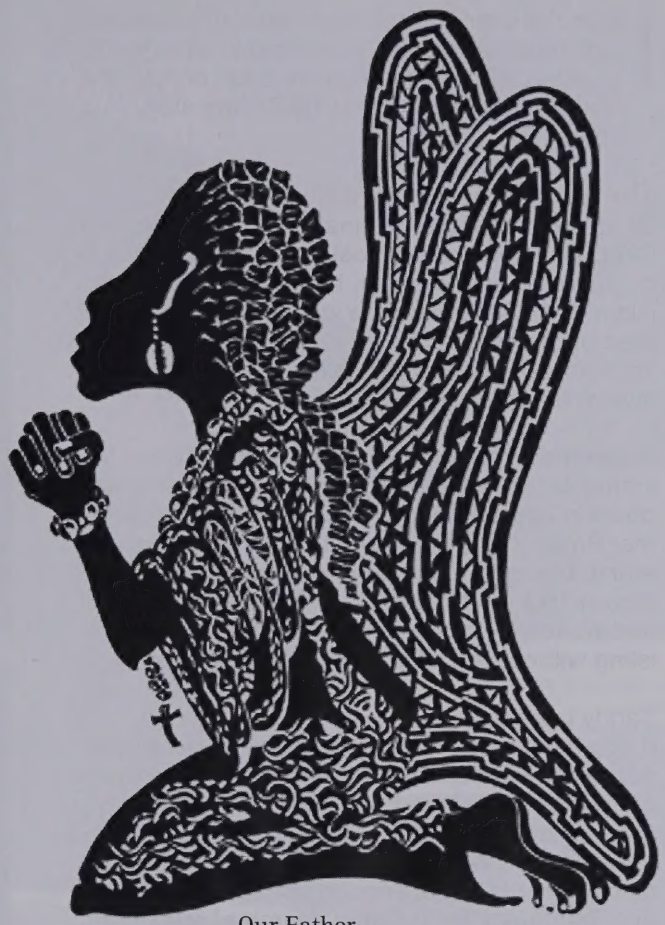
Different. That was the name of the poem written about Karen Y. Buster. It's verses include lines like "look at me, what do you see, exactly the person you want me to be... but, that's just your reality. I am innovative, I am strong-willed and well-skilled. I'm no freak... just unique... and that is Karen Y. Buster." This Baltimore native received her education in public schools, attended a local church and played block ball in alleys with her brother. But, she was different. Even in grade school, Karen had an eye unlike others. By junior high, she was drawing pictures on the wall of her bedroom. Always doodling, her pencil could not keep up with her thoughts.

Karen did not realize the dept of her gift until she attended Dillard Universary in New Orleans, Louisiana where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1981. She is now a graphic artist whose unusual style of hand cutting originated while silk-screening tee shirts for Bustertizin' Designs, a Tee shirt company started by Karen. "Bustertizin" played on Karen's last name "buster" and "advertising." Karen has become a skilled artist who has mastered a unique cutting technique using a X-acto knife. For over twenty five years, Karen has perfected her precision with the knife along with a keen eye for perception. Karen loves the strong statements that negative and positive spaces project. Her work has the ability to intrigue the viewer's eye through simplistic, repetitive, rhythmic, geometric shapes.

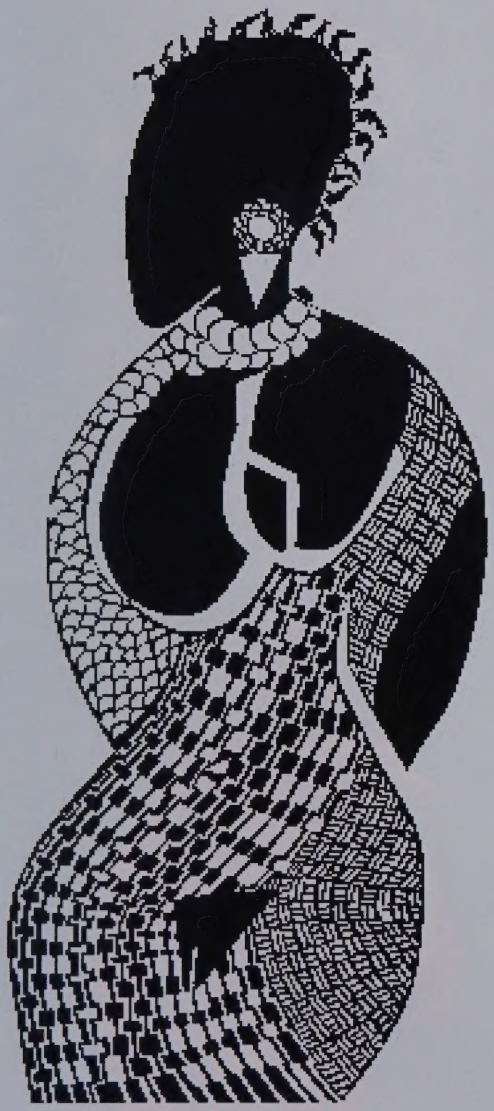
Karen's work has enhanced the lives of numerous celebrities including, Queen Latifah, Denzel Washington, Cheryl Lee Ralph, Toni Braxton, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Charles "Roc" Dutton and a host of others. Both the Beverly Hill and Philadelphia Chambers of Commerce have adorned their walls with her work. This artist has been across the nation.

Ankh

Strut on Brothers



Our Father



Voluptous

"God has given me a gift and I am blessed when I can share it with others."

Karen was presented an award for "Favorite Emerging Artist" for 2002 from the Black Heritage Visual Arts Association. She was also presented the "Arts and Cultural Award" from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated. Karen has also been inducted into the "African American Female Entrepreneur's Alliance" (AAFEA). When you ask this modest artist about her talents, Karen says, "God has given me a gift and I am blessed when i can share it with others."

www.karenybuster.com
P.O. Box 27310
Baltimore, MD 21216
busterizin@msn.com

If you're over 30 and have never experienced jazz on an island, you have no idea what you're missing. Either way, if you're a fan of jazz, the Caribbean, reggae and R&B, this story is a must.

The Barbados Jazz Festival

Of all the incredible destinations throughout the Caribbean, the easternmost island of Barbados is my favorite, hands down, thus far. Like all of the islands, the locals radiate with an incredible degree of charm and the most gracious hospitality. Yet somehow Bajans have managed to tweak their style without trying.

Awesome is the harmony I witnessed between the inhabitants. Unlike many islands, prosperity appears in absence of a designated race in this former British colony. People of various cultures and ethnic backgrounds seem to cohabitate harmoniously to a sensible degree. Even at night, you'll find whites, blacks, everyone on the street coexisting without fear of one another. That's nice!

Sandy Lane

If you have an affinity for exclusive experiences, add Sandy Lane, one of the most extraordinary properties in the world, to the top of your list. In a somewhat sterile, yet somehow relaxed atmosphere where employees can seem a bit on edge, management boasts enough activities for the active, tranquility for those in search of relaxation, and seclusion for the romantic at heart.

The adult/teen menu at the Spa at Sandy Lane offers rejuvenating treatments based on therapies indigenous to the Caribbean, the Far East and Europe cultures. In other words, their goal is to give breath, while just across the road, the astounding beauty of the new Green Monkey Golf Course is sure to take it away! Nestled in the hills above the hotel, overlooking the majestic sea, the 18-hole course was recently carved out of a quarry. In a word, simply spectacular!

With rack rates starting at $700 a night for a standard room (all rooms face the ocean) complete with a 42 inch plasma TV, full stereo system including CD player, marble bathroom and more, to a $20,000-a night villa, Sandy Lane is the perfect place for a royal celebration of life. www.sandylane.com

The House

Herbie Hancock and India Arie reportedly stayed at The House, a boutique property on the West Coast, just down the road from Sandy Lane. Affectionately known as The Gold Coast and quickly turning platinum, the west side has the largest concentration of affluent living on the island.

Jazz On An Island

Traveling in My World by Michael Andre Adams

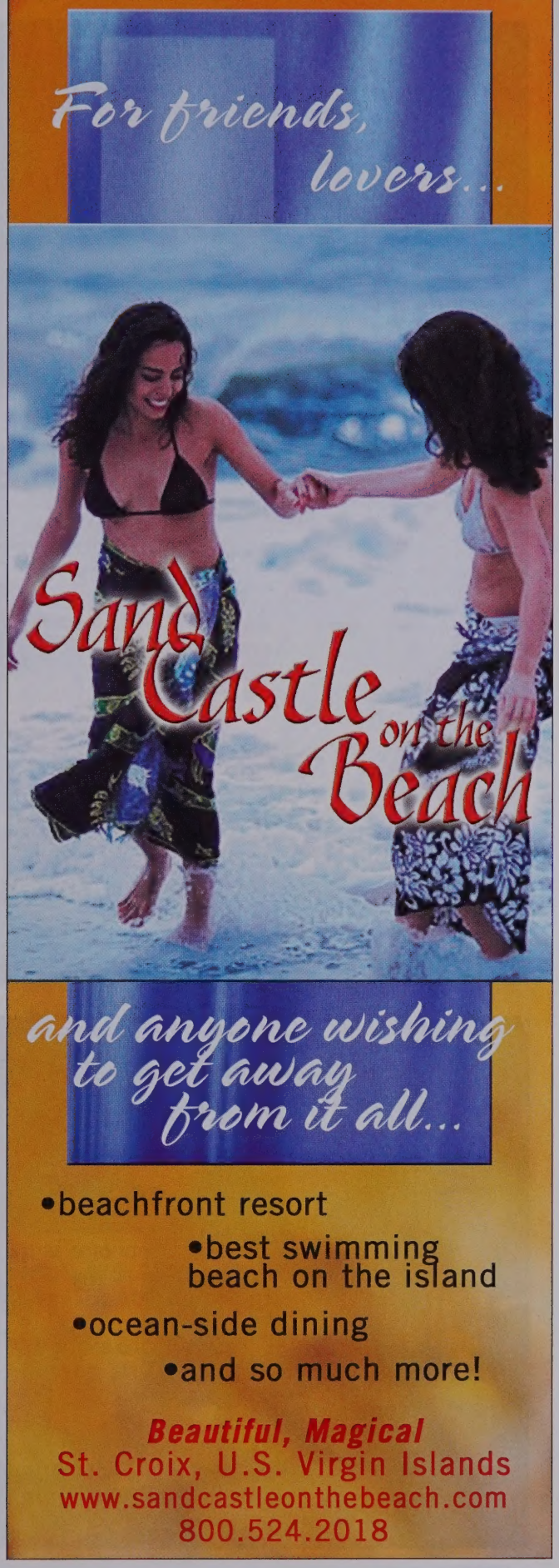
Jazz on an Island

The House is simplistic, near minimalist. To compensate, each guest is appointed his or her own ambassador to attend to your every need. www.thehouse@eleganthotels.com

The Crane

On the east side of the island lies yet another spectacular property: The Crane. Poised graciously on the cliffs above the turbulent Atlantic, The Crane is the first resort property to ever grace Barbadian soil. It's everything you could possibly think of in terms of a luxury getaway. Suites, complete with full kitchen appliances, a separate dining room, a washer/dryer, Jacuzzis in every bathroom and more, are situated in an environment set off to itself, at a peak point of the island.

Showcasing a beach below and a pool on the grounds above, a one-night stay is priced from $155 (standard) to



getting there:

St. Lucia-The longest running jazz festival in the Carribean, May 7-16th www.stluciajazz.org

Jamaica-Check later this year for the 2005 Jazz Festival line up at www.visitjamaica.com.

The Barbados Jazz Festival occurs during high season, (December through March). For information on next year's line up and dates, log on at www.visitbarbados.org.

Bermuda-The '04 festival, produced by BET, runs October 6-10th. www.bermudatourism.com

$2,035 for a three-bedroom ocean view penthouse with pool. Without a doubt, The Crane is an extraordinary value in Barbados. www.thecrane.com

Now in its second decade, the Barbados Jazz Festival is an annual event held traditionally in January. Top names in the business like Joe Sample, Herbie Hancock, Kirk Whalum and India Arie appeared at various venues throughout the week. On the weekend, droves of people made their way to Farley Hill, an incredible plateau overlooking verdant hills with the captivating sea in the distance. While Kem, Pancho Sanchez, Hiroshima and countless others performed, I was blown away by the interaction between blacks, whites and everyone under the sun. It was a surreal moment.

Unlike most island festivals, the Barbados Jazz Festival occurs during high season in the Caribbean (December through March), when heat and humidity are at a minimum. For information on next year's line up and dates, log on at www.visitbarbados.org.

The Jamaica Jazz Festival

On the heels of this year's Barbados Jazz Festival, Jamaica moved its annual jazz festival to January. The two islands are worlds apart in terms of atmosphere, with Jamaica being notorious for both crime and beauty.

Sponsored by Air Jamaica, friends and colleagues that attended reported stellar performances by Nancy Wilson, Cassandra Wilson, Alicia Keys, Bobby Womack, Michael Mc Donald and Kenny Rogers.

It's a little early for the 2005 lineup. Check back later this year at www.visitjamaica.com.

The Bermuda Jazz Festival

Another favorite is the Bermuda Jazz Festival. Traditionally held in September, the festival opened almost as planned in 2003, despite devastation from

Jazz on an Island

Hurricane Fabian, which forced the closing of the Fairmont Southampton, the host hotel for many years.

Fond memories of the 2002 event include George Duke, Angela Bofill, Diane Reeves and Bobby Lyle appearing on a stage built directly above the ocean. And like most island jazz festivals, after an artist performs, he or she is likely to be found out in the crowd, enjoying the show like everyone else.

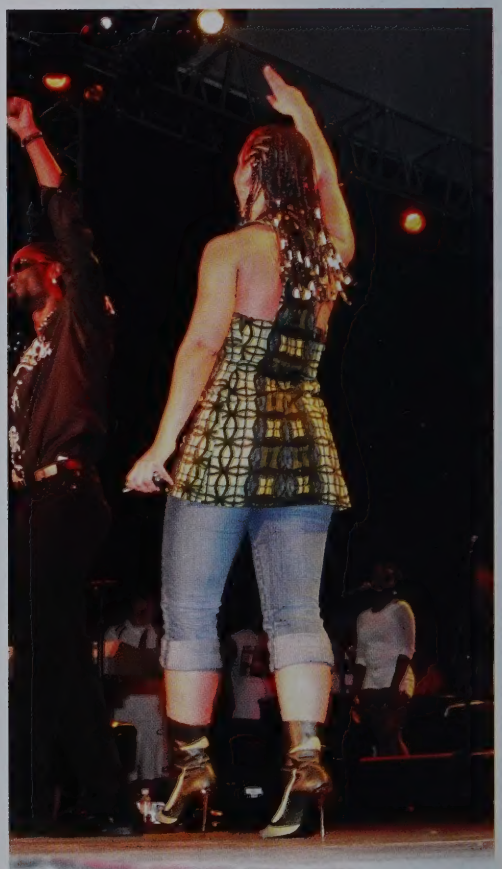
With limited cars, no neon signs and strict environmental laws, Bermuda is destined to retain its charm and natural beauty. See for yourself at the '04 festival, produced by BET, October 6-10th. www.bermudatourism.com

The St. Lucia Jazz Festival

Although Barbados is reportedly the first of the Caribbean islands to host a jazz festival, St. Lucia holds the honor of the longest running (in the Caribbean). Depending on who you ask, each holds the title of "Premier Caribbean Jazz Festival."

Dubbed "The Crown Jewel of the Caribbean," St, Lucia has a reputation for beautiful beaches, tropical rain forests, great food and warm people. Stay tuned for my official dossier following this year's festival, running May 7-16th. Headliners Joe, Ashanti, Brian Mc Knight and the Yellow Jackets and others perform in the last four days (May 13-16th). www.stluciajazz.org

Pearl



Jazz on an Island

There's a medication you should know about.

Here's the simplest way to ask your doctor if it's right for you:

Say: *RAY-ah-taz*

If you would like more information, talk to your doctor.

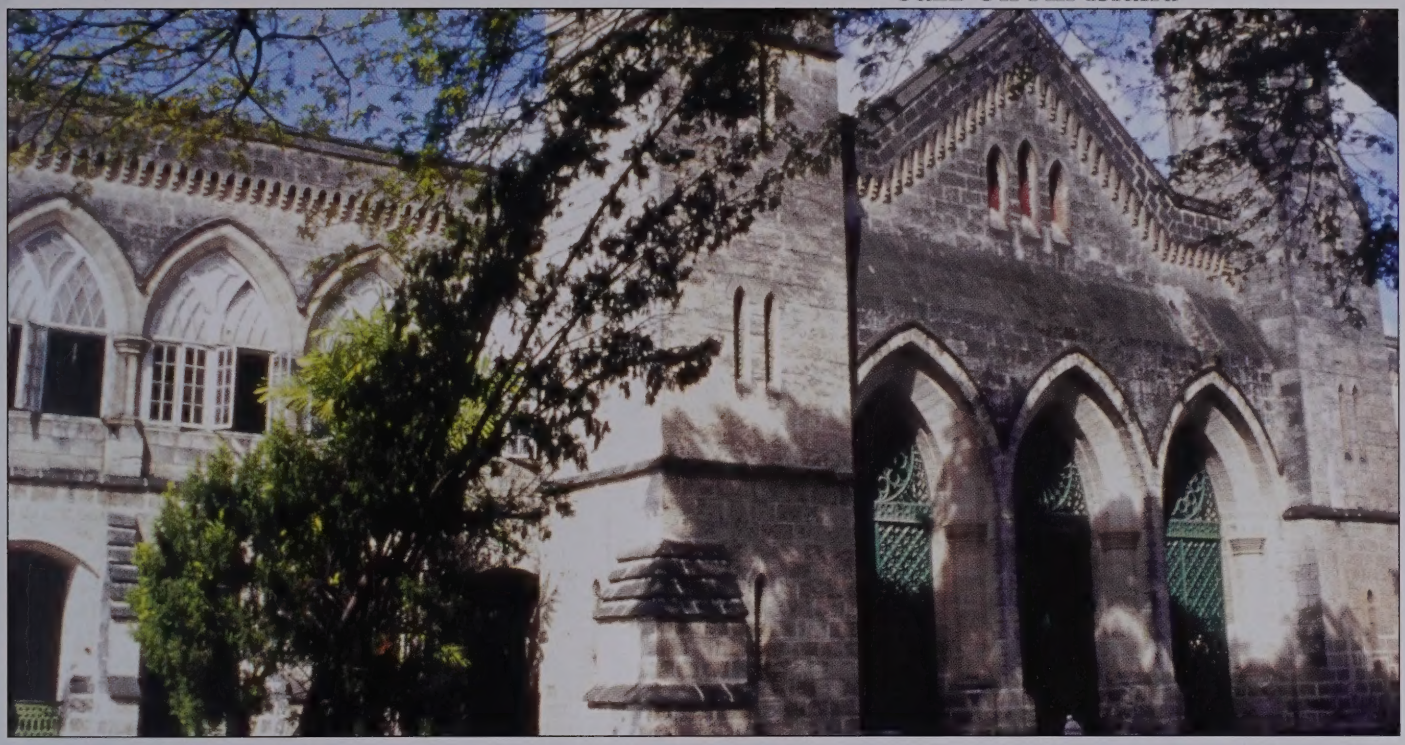
REYATAZ is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. ©2003 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Princeton, NJ 08543

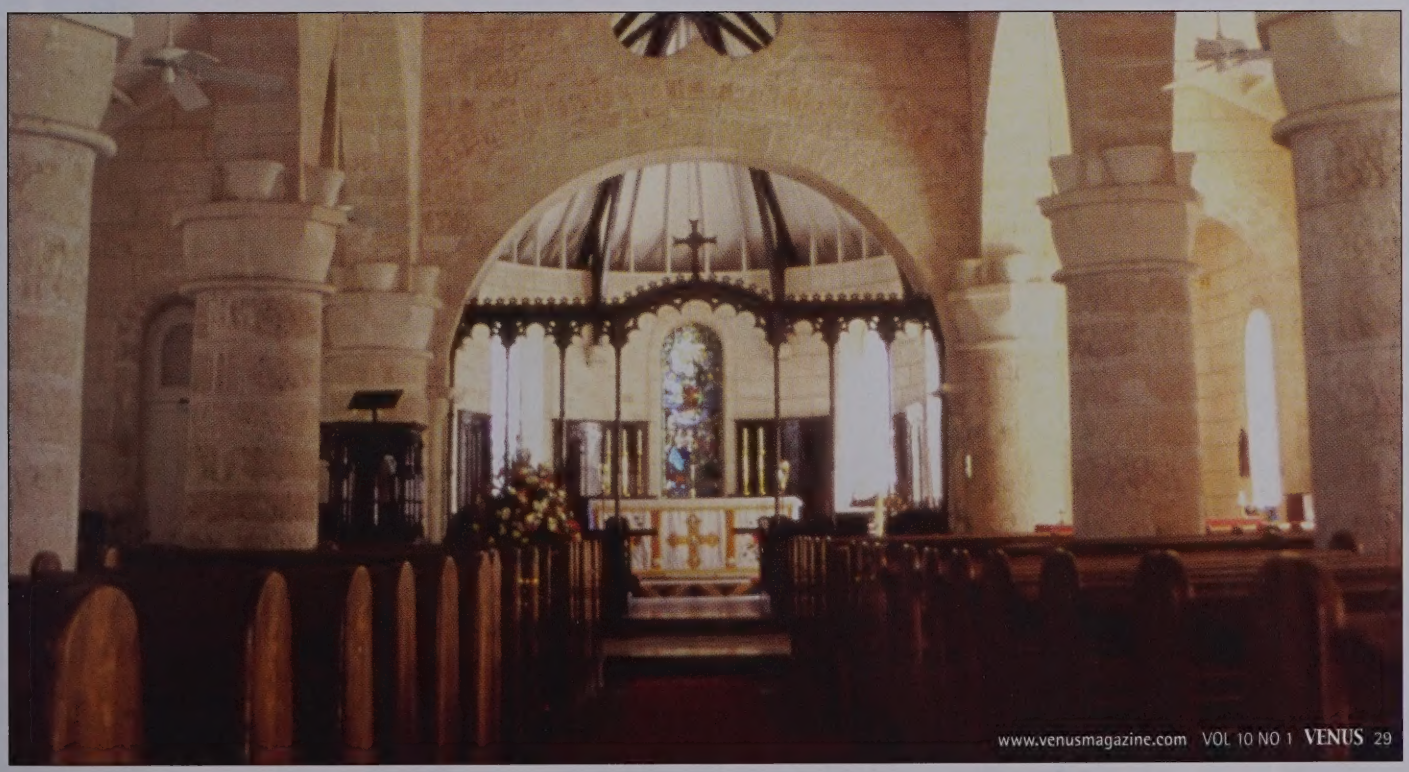
December 2003 F1-K0012

REYATAZ™

(atazanavir sulfate)

www.REYATAZ.com





Jazz On An Island

Valerie Simpson and Nick Ashford at the opening of Asprey flagship store on Fifth Avenue, New York City. Photo by Tina Paul

Expanded Access to Norvir®

Abbott Laboratories has expanded the scope of its Patient Assistance Program (PAP). Now, patients without prescription drug coverage or public assistance may be eligible to obtain Norvir® at no cost, regardless of income level.

To apply or obtain more information, contact us using any of the following methods:

- On the Web: **abbott.com**
- Phone: 1-800-222-6885 (select option #2)
- Fax: 1-847-937-9826

norvir®
(ritonavir) Soft Gelatin Capsules 100 mg

©2004 Abbott Laboratories

04A-017-B766-2 January 2004 Printed in USA

NORVIR®
(ritonavir capsules) Soft Gelatin
(ritonavir oral solution)

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with NORVIR. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR."

Patient Information
NORVIR®
(Nor-veer)

Generic Name: ritonavir
(rit-ON-uh-veer)

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking NORVIR. Also, read it each time you get your NORVIR prescription refilled, just in case something has changed. Remember that this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor when you start this medication and at check ups.

You should remain under a doctor's care when taking NORVIR and you should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

You should tell your doctor about any medicine you are taking or planning to take because taking NORVIR with some medications can result in serious or life-threatening problems.

Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about NORVIR. Your doctor or pharmacist can also give you more information about NORVIR.

What is NORVIR and how does it work?
NORVIR is in a class of medicines called the HIV protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitors. NORVIR is used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. NORVIR is for adults and for children age 2 years and older.

HIV infection leads to the destruction of CD_4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD_4 (T) cells have been destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

NORVIR blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. NORVIR reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of CD_4 (T) cells. Patients who took NORVIR in clinical studies had significant reductions in both death and AIDS defining diseases; however NORVIR may not have these effects in all patients.

Does NORVIR cure HIV or AIDS?
NORVIR does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of NORVIR are not known at this time. People taking NORVIR may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does NORVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?
NORVIR does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take NORVIR?
- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking NORVIR. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- It is very important that you take NORVIR every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it.
- The usual dose for adults is six 100 mg capsules or 7.5 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- The dosing of NORVIR may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Children from 2 to 16 years of age can also take NORVIR. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's height and weight.
- Take NORVIR with food if possible.
- NORVIR Oral Solution is peppermint/caramel flavored. You can take it alone, or improve the taste by mixing it with 8 ounces of chocolate milk, Ensure®, or Advera®. NORVIR Oral Solution should be taken within 1 hour if mixed with these items. Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about other ways to improve the taste of NORVIR Oral Solution.
- Do not change or stop taking NORVIR without first talking with your health care provider.
- When your NORVIR supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to NORVIR and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give NORVIR to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of NORVIR?
It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of NORVIR, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much NORVIR?
If you think that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, NORVIR should be kept out of the reach of young children. NORVIR liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of NORVIR, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take NORVIR?
Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether NORVIR is right for you.

- Do not take NORVIR if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take NORVIR, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with NORVIR, please read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR."

- Do not take NORVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to NORVIR or any of its ingredients.

Can I take NORVIR with other medications?*
NORVIR may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH NORVIR.

- *Do not take the following medicines with NORVIR because they can cause serious or life-threatening problems such as irregular heartbeat, breathing difficulties or excessive sleepiness could occur:*

  Cordarone® (amiodarone)
  Ergotamine, ergonovine, methylergonovine, and dihydroergotamine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E 45®, and others
  Halcion® (triazolam)
  Hismanal® (astemizole)
  Orap® (pimozide)
  Propulsid® (cisapride)
  Quinidine, also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
  Rythmol® (propafenone)
  Seldane® (terfenadine)
  Tambocor® (flecainide)
  Vascor® (bepridil)
  Versed® (midazolam)

- Do not take NORVIR with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease NORVIR levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to NORVIR or cross-resistance to other antiretroviral medicines.
- Do not take NORVIR with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between NORVIR and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with NORVIR.

Medicines that may require dosage adjustments:
It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking NORVIR. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

- The following medicines require dose reduction if taken with NORVIR:

  If you are taking Viagra® (sildenafil), your doctor may lower your dose of Viagra.

Before you take Viagra with NORVIR, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and NORVIR together, you may be at risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should get medical help immediately to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking Oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, your doctor should increase the dose or you should use a different type of contraception since NORVIR may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **Other Special Considerations:**

  NORVIR oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.
- **If you are taking both didanosine (Videx) and NORVIR:** Didanosine and NORVIR should be separated by at least 2.5 hours.
- Rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®, may reduce blood levels of NORVIR. Be sure to tell your doctor if you are taking rifampin.

What are the possible side effects of NORVIR?
- This list of side effects is **not** complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects are: feeling weak/tired, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, changes in taste, tingling feeling or numbness in hands or feet or around the lips, headache, and dizziness.
- Blood tests in patients taking NORVIR may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take NORVIR may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including rare cases of death have occurred in patients taking NORVIR. It is unclear if NORVIR caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking NORVIR can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis) which may cause death. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- Allergic reactions ranging from mild to severe have occurred in patients taking NORVIR.

There have been other side effects noted in patients receiving NORVIR; however, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or persistent symptoms to your doctor immediately.

What should I tell my doctor before taking NORVIR?
- *If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:* The effects of NORVIR on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- *If you are breast-feeding:* Do not breast-feed if you are taking NORVIR. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- *If you have liver problems:* If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking NORVIR.
- *If you have diabetes:* Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.
- *If you have hemophilia:* Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B.

How do I store NORVIR?
- Keep NORVIR and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Store NORVIR Oral Solution at room temperature. Do not refrigerate NORVIR Oral Solution. Avoid exposing NORVIR Oral Solution to excessive heat or cold.
- Refrigeration of NORVIR soft gelatin capsules by the patient is recommended, but not required if used within 30 days and stored below 77°F (25°C). Avoid exposing NORVIR soft gelatin capsules to excessive heat or cold.
- Store NORVIR soft gelatin capsules and NORVIR Oral Solution in the original container.
- Shake NORVIR Oral Solution well before each use.
- Use NORVIR Oral Solution by the expiration date on the bottle.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

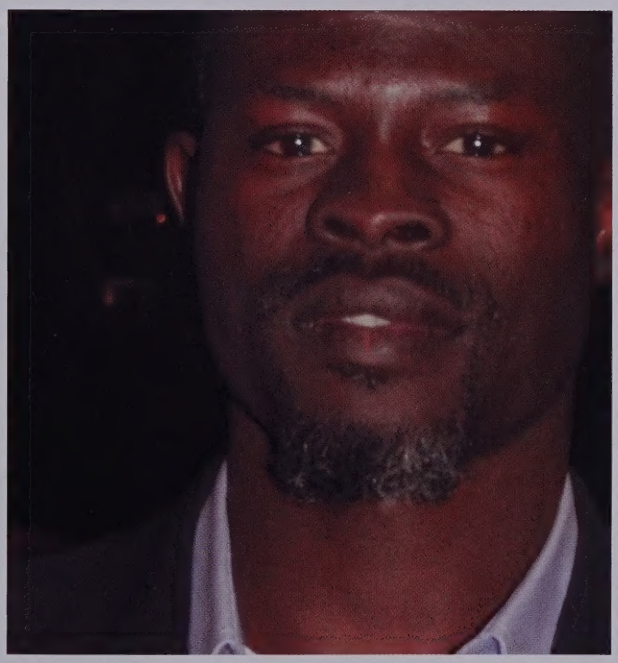
General advice about prescription medicines:
Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

* The brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Abbott Laboratories. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse Abbott Laboratories or its products.

03-5311-R18
Revised: October, 2003
04A-017-A985-1 **MASTER**

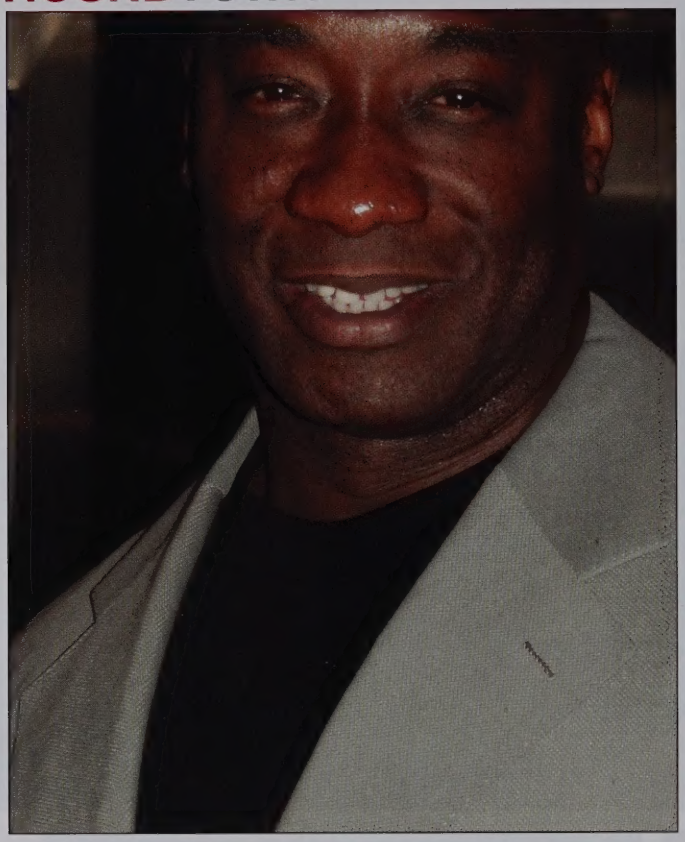
ABBOTT LABORATORIES
NORTH CHICAGO, IL 60064, U.S.A.

04A-017-B766-2
PRINTED IN U.S.A.



Photographer Tina Paul brings ya up close and personal with the stars spotted in New York City.

1. Al Sharpton, Presidential Candidate, rallies the crowd at a church in Harlem, New York.
2. Gabrielle Union at the Eighth Annual GQ Men at the Regent Wall Street, New York.
3. Djimon Hounsou at the New York premiere of *In America*.at Beekman Theater.



1. Michael Clarke Duncan at the World Premiere after party for Walt Disney Pictures' *Brother Bear.*
2. Maxwell at the New York Premiere of *Cold Mountain,* New York.
3. Mayor Michael Bloomberg appoints Jennifer Lopez to the New York Premier of *Cold Mountain,* New York.
4. Robert Guillaume at the World Premiere of Big Fish in New York.
5. Regina King at the New York Premiere of *Monster* at Chelsea West Cinema.

Photography by Tina Paul

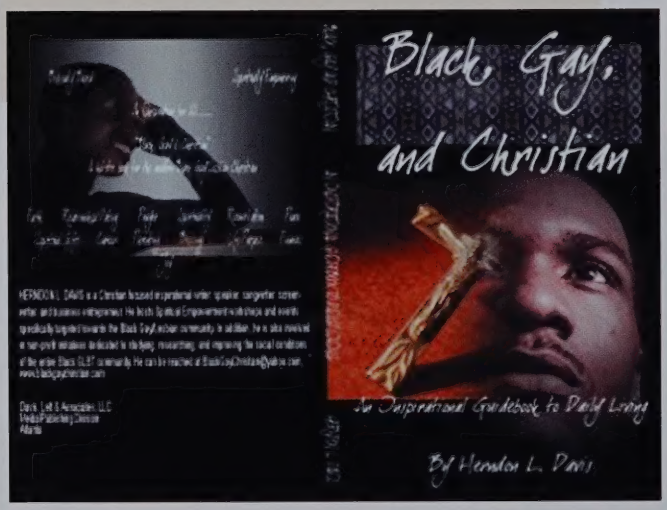
Black, Gay & Christian
An Inspirational Guidebook To Daily Living
by Herndon L. Davis
www.blackgaychristian.com

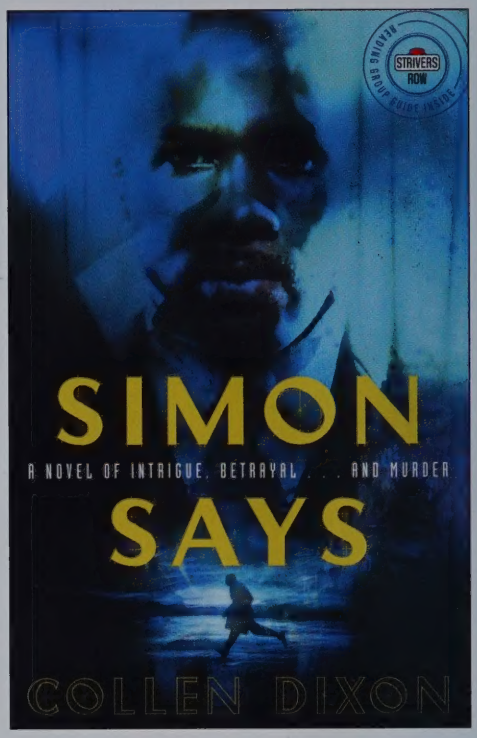
Herndon L. Davis is proud to announce the launch of the official website for his book "*Black, Gay & Christian*." You can access the website at www.blackgaychristian.com.

There you will find expanded information about the book and the fundamental principles upon which it was written. Hel asks that you please visit the site and forward it to others who might be interested in the book.

Black, Gay & Christian: An Inspirational Guidebook to Daily Living is a 16 chapter, Gay/Lesbian Affirming, biblically based, self-help tool which provides spiritual direction, motivational support and Christ-centered guidance to practicing Black Gay/Lesbians on how to live proud and fully committed, joy-filled, prosperous, and blessed lives as GLBT Christians without changing their orientation or behavior.

Davis will continue to post book excerpts, articles and other information of interest concerning Black GLBT Spirituality at the Yahoo Groups page, BlackGayChristian.





Simon Says:
A Novel of Intrigue, Betrayal... and Murder
by Collen Dixon Strivers Row, $12.95

Simon Says is a coming-of-age tale combined with gritty urban drama and political intrigue.

Alexander Baxter is a young man from the heart of D.C's most notorious ghetto and seems destined for a life of crime. Motherless, raised by an overbearing, emotionally absent father, and faced with the drugs, gangs, and the murderous streets of Washington, D.C., Alex knows he has only one option - to get out.

When Simon Blake, the city's illustrious mayor, sees potential in Alex he plucks him out of the clutches of a violent fate and guides him to achieve he has ever dreamed of. With a beautiful wife, a solid education and a promising political future, Alex becomes D.C's golden.

Suddenly, Alex's word is turned upside down when he uncovers unimaginable secrets about his life. When the person he trusts most turns against him, an enemy from his past becomes his closest ally. In order to survive and protect his family, Alex must return to the past he once fought to escape.

Warrior Poet

A Biography Of Audre Lorde

by Alexis De Veaux
W.W. Norton & Company, $17.95

The long-awaited first biography of the author of *The Cancer Journals*, an American icon of womanhood, poetry, African American arts, and survival.

During her lifetime, Audre Lorde (1934-1992) created a mythic identity for herself that retains its vitality to this day. Alexis De Veaux demystifies Lorde's iconic status, charting her childhood in Harlem in the conservative household of Caribbean-immigrant parents; her early marriage to a white, gay man with whom she had two children; her emergence as an outspoken black feminist lesbian poet; and her cannonization as a seminal poet of American literature. Lorde's restless search for a spiritual home finally brought her to the island of St, Croix in 1986, where she died after a decade-long battle with breast cancer.

Drawing on the private archives of the poet's estate, personal journals, and interviews with members of Lorde's family, friends, and lovers, De Veaux assesses the cultural legacy of a woman who personified the defining civil rights struggles of the twentieth century. This landmark biography pays homage to one of the most courageous, singular voices of American letters.

What does your company's image say about your company?

Your corporate image is speaking volumes about your company, every day. Manage your identity with a partner committed to your success. TRUST JADA.

LET YOUR IMAGE ... SAY MORE ...

950 Mt. Holly Road
Beverly, NJ 08075

call: (609) - 835 - 4314
fax: (609) - 835 - 5354

JADA

www.jadacreative.com info@.jadacreative.com

Advertisements
Banners
Brochures
Exhibits
Design

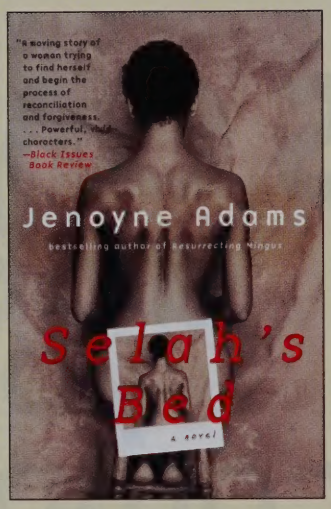
Displays
Graphics
Presentations
Promotional Items
Web Design/Hosting

JADA supports the efforts of community-oriented publications like VENUS MAGAZINE

Selah's Bed: A Novel

by Jenoyne Adams Free Press, $13.00

Selah's Bed is an honest and powerful story of an African-American woman who struggles to move beyond her troubled past.c In this hauntingly visceral and sensual novel of self-discovery, Jenoyne Adams, author of the *Los Angeles Times* bestselling *Ressurecting Mingus*, weaves past traumas from a disastrous childhood with heartrending scenes of present torment.



Selah and her husband, Parker, met at a young age rife with love, energy, and sexual exploration. The complications began soon after Selah's unforseen pregnancy that haunts their relationship and marriage for years to come: Parker turns from the sexual excitement that pulled them together in their youth and becomes a minister, submerging himself in love for God, while Selah, disenchanted with God (she believes He abandoned her as a child), looks for salvation through sex and lovers ("sex was a way to stop the crying").

Selah's difficulties only deepen, however, as her grandmother and caregiver, Mama Gene, begins to slip away from her through a prescription drug addiction and an intermediate stage of Alzheimer's disease. Now required to be a mother to her Grandmother, Selah grapples with their complex relationship - Selah loves Mama Gene as a mother, but resents her for taking away her own chance to have a child.

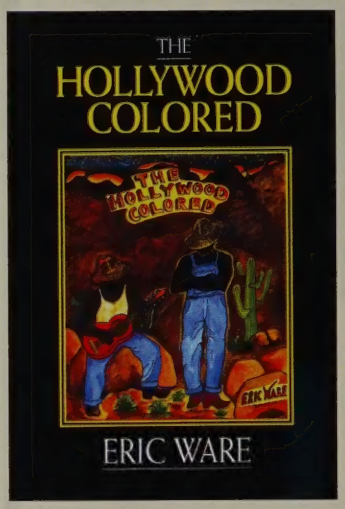
Selah's battle continues when a new lover tries to break down her emotional walls. Unwilling to let go of the regrets and sadness that have fueled her behavior for all these years, Selah fights her new lover's attempts to have her confront her traumatic past. Yet when Selah is pushed to the brink by an unexpected turn of events, sshe must finally face her past and begin to make peace with god, Parker, herself, and the baby she lost.

Portraying life's deepest challenges and illuminating the contrasting responses that can exist in the face of tragedy, Selah's Bed is a story told through a series of flashbacks into Selah's life that illustrate the resilience of the human spirit and how love can triumph over regret and anger.

The Hollywood Colored

by Eric Ware Wareword Publishing, $23.95

Congress officially declared 2003 the Year Of The Blues. Terrorism, the economy, and the pervasive influence of Blues on everything from Rap to Rock & roll influenced their decision. Recently, PBS aired a week long documentary called *The Blues*, hosted by Martin Scorcesse. the documentary featured several different films by various directors, including Clint Eastwood, who showcased blues superstars like BB king, Ray charles, and lesser known artists who spoke with authority on the original American art form known as Blues. Congress is even backed by science on the Year of the Blues. The oct. 10 issues of the journal *Science* states that hurt feelings truly do hurt in yet another scientific study stating the obvious. MRI scans revealed that the part of the brain which registers emotional pain is the same region of the brain measuring physical agony. When a blues singer wails about his broken heart; he really means it. When rejected teenagers and lonely adults say they "feel like they're dying inside," they really mean it, too.



In *The Hollywood Colored*, Luke and Benny are two best friends with big dreams in the wrong place and time: Braxton, Alabama. The 1920s. Benny's the sexy blues singer who does as he pleases. Luke's the odd genius, a film maker in the rough, whose qualities go unappreciated in his limited environment. A racist attack forces them to flee to Hollywood for fame... and revenge. How would a Spike Lee type make his dreams come true during that time? How does one become who he really is in the face of overwhelming odds? In this powerful mixture of Mark twain with an urban flair, *The Hollywood Colored* is a bawdy, page turning trip dipped in generous helpings of humor, blues, and taboo.

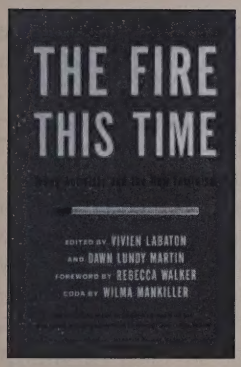
The author, Eric Ware, is uniquely Qualified to write on this topic because of his Alabama roots and award-winning acting experience. Ware's first novel more than stands on its own as the ultimate and early true hollywood story.

The Fire This Time:
Young Activists and the New Feminism

by V. Labaton & D. Lundy Martin
an Anchor Books Original, $14.95

Where have all the feminists? The mainstream media projects that there are no young feminists and that young people are apathetic. A recent cover article in *TIME Magazine* asked, "is Feminism Dead?" Vivien Labon and Dawn Lundy Martin's new anthology *The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism* tells a different story.

The Fire This Time highlights young feminists' cutting-edge work. In this collection, writers and thinkers ranging from activist Rebecca Walker to music critic Ayana Bird broaden the old model of feminism to define the vibrant variety of activists today. These activists come in all shapes, ethnicites and sexualities, and collectively define this burgeoning movement.

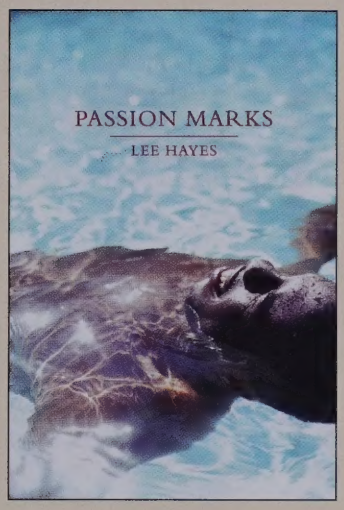


Courageous and fresh, each essay takes on a different attitude and aspect of today's multi-issue grassroots movement. *The Fire This Time* dispels the notion that young people today are apolitical, apathetic, self-absorbed and have lost interest in feminism. Vivien Labaton and Dawn Lundy Martin reveal the groundwork of a dynamic and growing multi-issue movement of young, progressive feminist men and women in their groundbreaking anthology. I look forward to your coverage of this inspiring and long awaited collection.

Passion Marks

by Lee Hayes Strebor Books International

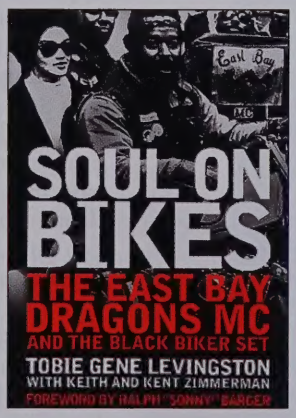
Set in Texas, *Passion Marks* tells the story of Kevin Davis, an agonizing double life. The fashionable Houston home Kevin shares with his partner might as well have bars on the windows, for all the freedon he enjoys. For behind closed doors, he lives a sordid and humiliating existence as the kept lover of powerful businessman James lancaster, a vicious closet Abuser. Haunted by apocaliptic visions and terrified of the man he'd once hoped could save him, Kevin is unable to break the cycle of violence and depravity that has made him a prisoner in his own life. An unforseen event forces him to confront the demons that are holding him back and call on a strength he didn't know he possessed.



Building to an unforgettable climax, and peopled by a cast of richly drawn characters - including Kevin's best girlfriend, Danea, and the mercilessly driven James - this is a powerhouse story of tough love from a supremely talented new author.

Soul On Bikes:
The East Bay Dragons MC and The Black Biker Set

by Tobie Gene Levingston
Classic Motorbooks, www.motorbooks.com



It's a slice of underground American and African-American history you won't find in any history book. The East Bay Dragons Motorcycle Club has gunned its Harleys through the meanest streets of Oakland, Calif., since the 1950s. While Rosa parks took her historic bus ride, before Martin Luther King. Jr., Malcolm X, and Huey P. Newton and the Black Panthers stood bravely for equal rights, the East Bay Dragons MC risked life and limb during the days when it was a revolutionary act for a black man to ride a Harley chopper.

Tobie Gene Levingston and his colorful cast of comrades are an all-black, all-Harley, all-chopper group of motorcyclists who have found more than their fair share of violence and redemption on the battlegrounds of urban America. They have encountered street scuffles, rival clubs, ethnic stereotypes, police misconduct and racial tensions.

Their legacy is an untold portion of African-American history.

Front and Center at Sundance

The Gayest Straight Film Festival in the World by Darren Frei

Lesbian spies! Incestuous boy bands! Nympho terrorists! And that was just the line at the box office! The 2004 Sundance Film Festival was one of the gayest in recent memory. Not only was a healthy crop of groundbreaking queer films unveiled—but the artists who made them, the distributors who clamored for them, and the journalists who couldn't stop asking questions about them schmoozed in a centralized setting for the first time. Located in the heart of the festival, near Main Street in Park City, Utah, The Queer Lounge invited everyone—the Machiavellian power player, the tortured auteur, the simpleminded cineaste—to a ten-day round of coffee-fueled meta-networking atop shag rugs, bean bags and cushy couches. At the hub of this happening homo scene was here! @ Sundance, presented by here! TV, the nation's only 24-hour destination dedicated to providing a home for gay and lesbian-themed programming. As the company's theatrical arm, here! Films, scoured festival screens for the best queer films to release in theaters, here! @ Sundance got the inside scoop directly from the loquacious lips of the filmmakers and industry professionals.

The door to the Queer Lounge was outfitted with a small sign in bold lettering: "Straights Welcome." It was a joke that seemed to befit the entire queer-eyed festival, where the ratio of straight to gay far exceeded the 10:1 standard, and nearly one-fifth of the 255 accepted films had gay themes (or were of significant gay interest). Not since 1991, when Todd Hayne's POISON won the dramatic competition and PARIS IS BURNING won the documentary competition (it shared the prize with AMERICAN DREAM), has it been so cool to be gay in Park City. That year's infamous "Homos Away From Home" party was even reincarnated! But I'll mention the relentless march of fabulous fetes, boisterous brunches and hot tub hustles later. For now, let's get to the most notable LGBT films of Sundance 2004, many of which will trickle into queer film festivals before reaching arthouse theaters, home DVD players, and cable outlets (such as here! TV) in the coming year.

Two gay-themed films competed in the dramatic category. Rodney Evans' BROTHER TO BROTHER, a heartfelt exploration into the life of a black gay artist (Anthony Mackie) living amidst the Harlem Renaissance of the 1930s, was presented with a Special Jury Prize at the award ceremony. Earlier in the week, at one of the jam-packed screenings, Samuel L. Jackson joined the audience in giving it a standing ovation. "The fact that a film like this is in competition is a sign of health and diversification in queer cinema," said Sundance programmer Shari Frilot.

The other dramatic competition selection was HARRY AND MAX, directed by Christopher Munch, veteran of the "new queer cinema" movement. Focusing on the incestuous relationship between a washed up boy band member and his teen pop idol little brother, the film marks a departure from Munch's prior work (THE HOURS AND TIMES, COLOR OF A BRISK AND LEAPING DAY, THE SLEEPY TIME GAL). "[The characters] were not crafted as much as they were in my previous films," said Munch. "It sounds corny but the characters really just wanted their story told—they just came to me." One scene that's sure to raise more than just eyebrows has Max (Cole Williams) steering a car with one hand and groping his brother (Bryce Johnson) with the other, inducing a very authentic-looking erection. "I actually surveyed some knowledgeable friends beforehand to make sure it looked realistic," joked Munch.

There was no question of phallic authenticity in Bruce LaBruce's hardcore RASPBERRY REICH, which heated up an otherwise arctic midnight at the Egyptian Theater. Director of Programming John Cooper described this tongue-in-cheek anti-capitalist diatribe as "porno-political-palooza." At its core is Gunfrun, an East German terrorist who believes that heterosexual monogamy is a bourgeois construct that must be smashed to achieve revolution—so she makes her straight male apprentices have sex with each other. By the end of the screening, one audience member was so inspired by the manifesto that he forced his hand up my shirt, pinched my nipple and boldly declared, "I want hot sex now!"

An even hotter ticket—indeed, the most "buzzed about" queer film of the festival—was edited on Apple's iMovie and produced for $218.32. Nineteen years in the making, Jonathan Caouette's pioneering TARNATION utilizes photos, Super-8 home movies, phone messages, DV diaries and dramatic reenactments to shed light on the 31-year-old's complex relationship with his schizophrenic mother. Upon seeing a rough cut of the film, John Cameron Mitchell and Gus Van Sant signed on as producers. Mitchell (HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH) said that critics wept and hugged each other after the first screening. During the Q&A, Caouette said that making the movie was a way of exorcising the demons of his past. "It was very therapeutic, like putting a cap on it," he said. "Now I'm ready to move on and make bigger and better films."

Speaking of making bigger and better films, Angela Robinson turned her 2003 short, D.E.B.S., into this year's feature of the same name. The sexy lesbian teen-spy action flick, which played to a sell-out crowd at the spacious Eccles Theatre, has also proven popular among LGBT film festival programmers, several of which speculated about featuring the film as an opening or closing night selection. Screen Gems will release D.E.B.S. theatrically (with a surprising PG-13 rating, the first ever for an LGBT film) later

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

Father encourages students to maul gay son at Dunoon Tech

by reporter Karyl Walker, The Observer February 19, 2004

In notoriously homophobic Jamaica gay men can hardly expect protection even from their parents - as was made very clear yesterday.

A father, concerned that his son might be gay, turned up at the Dunoon Park Technical High School in east Kingston and apparently encouraged other students to beat the boy, an eleventh grader.

"Them bruck up desk and bench and beat him up badly," one Dunoon student told the Observer. "Him get nuff lick, box, kick and thump from boy and girl."

The boy's name was withheld by school officials and the extent of his injuries was not immediately known. But whatever they were, it would have been worse were it not for the intervention of ancillary staff.

According to students and teachers at the school, the boy's father apparently found pictures of nude men in the boy's school bag.

Infuriated, he turned up at the school yesterday with the pictures and encouraged the mob to turn on his son. As students began to maul his son, the man is reported to have driven away.

In the frenzy, students hurled stones at police who were called to the school to restore order, in the process damaging police cars and motorbikes. The police eventually were able to rescue the youngster from the other students, most of whom wore uniforms, and whisked him off the campus.

According to a teacher at the school, people from outside the school joined in the fracas.

"They were intent on killing him," this teacher said. "They were like a pack of wild animals who had smelled blood and if it wasn't for a staff member who jumped on top of him, you would be reporting on a mob killing."

The teacher described the behaviour of the student's father as "careless".

"A me save him," an ancillary staff member told the Observer. "Me have to jump on him and shield him cause them was going to kill him. Me get a whole heap of licks, but me push him in the office and lock him in." School authorities were forced to call the Elletson Road police to escort the boy off the compound when the angry mob became uncontrollable.

But the cops were also attacked, leaving some with minor injuries. After calm was restored, at least a dozen Dunoon students were taken to the Elletson Road police station where they were given a stern warning by officers from the station's Criminal Investigation Bureau before being released.

"We went to the school to calm down a situation and protect the students and they turn around and fling stones on us," an Elletson Road police office complained. "What has the society come to?" The parent who has been accused of ordering the students to maul his son, reportedly drove away from the school as soon as the fracas started.

609.695.4500

SUBSCRIBE

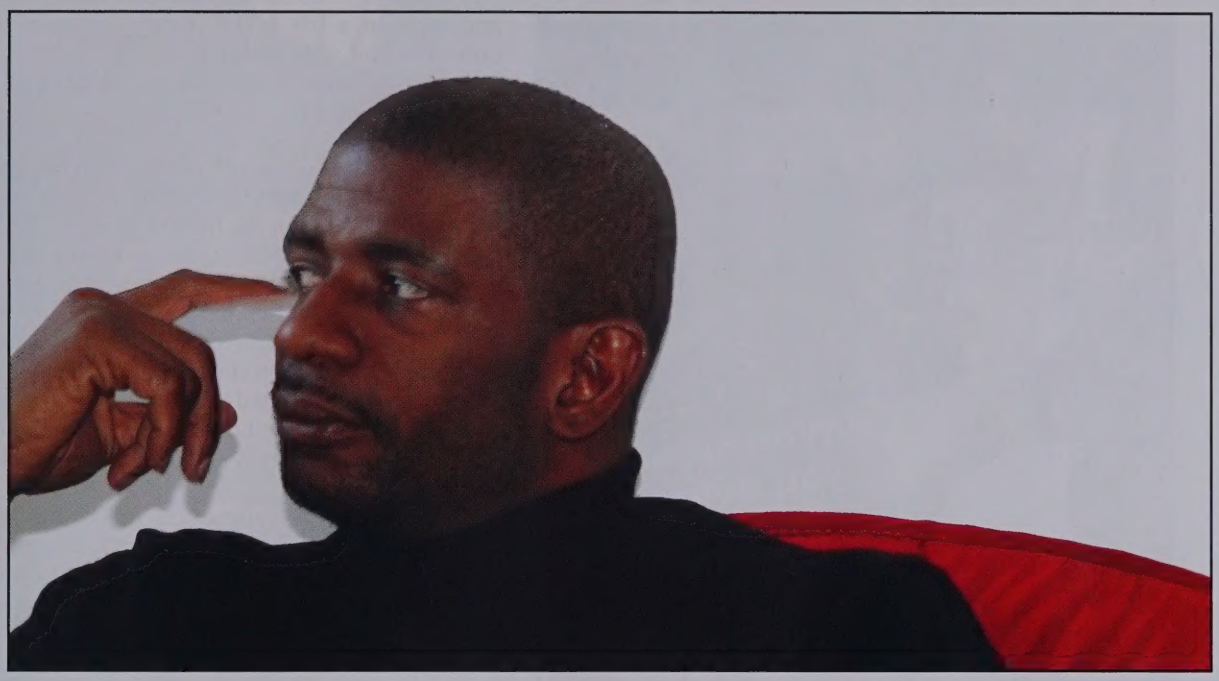
THE DOWN LOW ON NATHAN KERR

PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY MARKETING CONCEPTS

words and images by Jamal

If you live in the metro New York, DC or Chicago areas, chances are you have witnessed the artistry of Nathan Kerr. Unlike Picasso or Jacob Lawrence, Mr. Kerr's creative works can be viewed in safe-sex posters, condom packs, flyers and postcards that often feature same sex couples, scantly dressed male models or ad campaigns featuring tag lines like "Any Way You Swing It" or "Keep It on the Down Low." His creative workshop, Community Marketing Concepts (CMC) -a minority owned and operated social marketing firm based in New York, is committed to getting the word out about safe-sex practices by speaking a language that the people want to and need to hear.

Under the guidance and leadership of Nathan Kerr, president and founder, Community Marketing Concepts has been developing controversial yet, effective material and literature that impact communities of color. for close to a decade. However, according to Mr. Kerr, the task

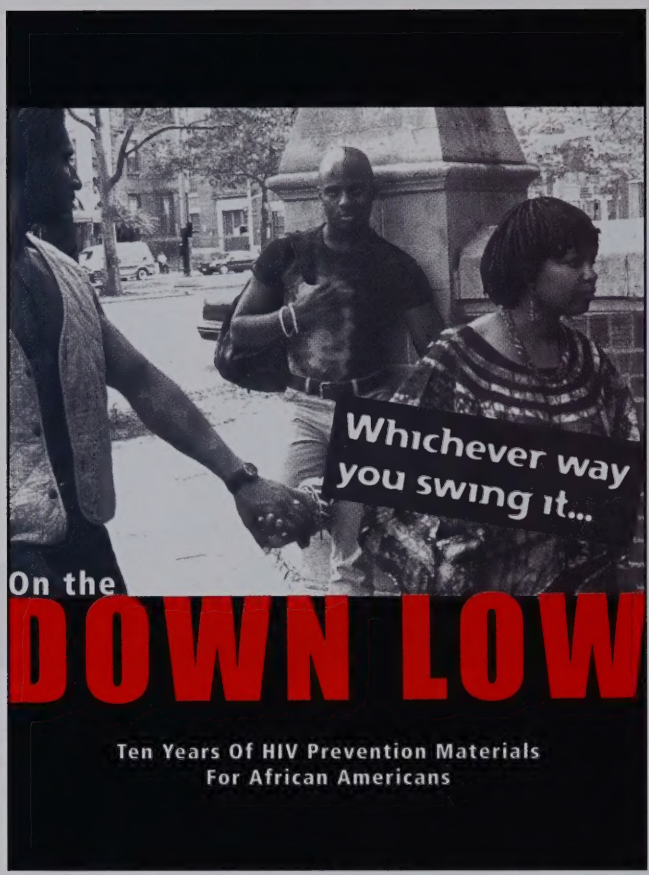


has not been easy. "When we started CMC we made a commitment to bring the programmatic, creative and technical process of material development under one roof," states Mr. Kerr, a respected health professional who sits on the board of numerous community health organizations.

After leaving a lucrative position at one of New York's leading health organizations, Mr. Kerr decided to venture out on his own. "I had already started working on the business plan for CMC, which would serve as an integrated creative shop that takes a client from initial concept to finish product", Mr. Kerr recalls.

"So I packed my bags and hit the road. My travels took me to the West coast where I met Ron Simmons, the head of a DC based community outreach program called Us Helping Us."

Mr. Simmons, who was familiar with Nathan's work, needed help creating a prevention campaign that targeted a growing population of black men that did not fit into the typical gay, bisexual or homosexual categories. These men, classified as men who have sex with men, were not on the radar of any prevention programs.



Mr. Kerr rolled up his sleeves and went to work. He put together focus groups, visited clubs, parks and held brainstorming sessions with his peers and associates. What he learned was that unlike their white gay counterparts, the majority of black men were not interested in being visible and considered homosexuality a social disease. "African Americans always had a problem fitting into mainstream classification," says Mr. Kerr. "Gay to them was the same as being a sissy or faggot. It was a cultural identity that was not their reality."

After compiling and collecting data, Mr. Kerr also discovered a key phrase that all of the brothers felt comfortable with. This was the mid 90's and Hip Hop was already a main staple in urban culture. Although the majority of the songs contained racy, misogynist anti-gay lyrics, it was part of the urban fabric. At this time, R&B crooner R Kelly was riding the air waves with a duet he recorded with Ron Isley entitled "Down Low." Although the song illustrated a hidden affair between a thug and his boss's mistress, the phrase took a life of its own and the youth within the gay community embraced it.

"The Down Low became an overnight badge of distinction", recalls Mr. Kerr, who used the phrase as the tag line for the Us Helping Us campaign. "It was a look a style and language that best fit this new generation" In addition to setting up an 800 line, Community Marketing Concepts placed the slogan on condom packs, postcards and literature. Unlike previous campaigns, this one seemed to penetrate and take on a life of its own. Community Marketing Concepts had spoken the language of the people which broke down barriers and leveled the playing field for effective intervention.

Since then, the success of this campaign has grown to monstrous proportion which is evident in the sensationalism that it created. From the headlines of the New York Times to BET, Ricky Lake, CNN News and Jerry Springs, producers, journalists and writes are jumping on the band wagon. Lengthy articles and entire shows dedicated to life on the "Down Low" are being produced for commercial gain. Gossip columnists are spending countless hours flooding the airwaves and printed press exposing celebrities accused of living life on "The Low" and websites and sex parties promote exclusive events and activities for DL brothers only.

As the author and creator of the successful Down Low and anyway you swing it campaigns, Mr. Kerr is indifferent to this new Down Low phenomena. "I feel the message is getting lost", says Mr. Kerr, who is working on a self-published book that takes a retrospective look at HIV/AIDS prevention in the African American Community. "The rate of infection in our community continues to rise at alarming rates and safe sex practices are being abandoned. It's time for health counselors to hit the street and address these issues".

Scheduled for release spring 2004, *Decade of HIV/AIDS Prevention In The African American Community* (working title), is a hands on manual that illustrates over 10 years of strategic campaigns and programs. Each campaign is colorfully illustrated along with notes, personal history and insightful antidotes relating to the campaign, its targeted audience/demographic and the strategic steps behind their success. In the book, Mr. Kerr illustrates sensible steps healthcare professions can take that will allow them to move away from the practical towards the impractical. Mr. Kerr shares his hands on theory for creating informative dialogue within the community and using these conversations as foundational platforms to build strategic programs and material.

In addition to the book, Community Marketing Concepts is partnering with health organizations such as POCC, Harlem United, Us Helping Us, Gay Men of African Descent and Housing Works to host a series of training programs and workshops geared toward equipping their staff in the general application and use of Guerilla Social Marketing Principles – Mr. Kerr's blueprints for marketing success.

These training sessions are intended to re-start the conversation between outreach programs and the communities they serve. During these forums, CMC will cover such areas as creating cultural basis for material development that will effectively reach the target population, training in the principles of GSMP and creating a format for material development for hard to reach populations. "Its time that we stop talking the talk and walking the walk", says Mr. Kerr. "Our people and our community are at stake."

Hallelujah!

With LifeStyles, you can get wet and wild without the worry!

LifeStyles gives you the best of both worlds. Our latex condoms offer the ultimate in "stretchability" for real comfort and peace of mind, and our new liquid lubricants definitely prove that wetter is better! Who says you can't have it all?

LIQUID PERSONAL LUBRICANT
ALOE & VITAMIN E

LifeStyles® BRAND CONDOMS

PLEASURE ZONE

Proven protection that feels really good!™

www.lifestyles.com

CAUTION: Spermicidal Lubricants Are Not For Rectal Use or More-Than-Once-A-Day Vaginal Use.

Enter our "Feels Good to Get Away" Sweepstakes!

You and a friend could find yourselves on a romantic weekend in the city of your choice! For details and to enter, visit www.lifestyles.com/feelsgoodsweeps

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. PURCHASE WILL NOT IMPROVE CHANCE OF WINNING. Must be resident of the 50 United States, excluding Florida, and as of January 2, 2004 be 18 years old, have Internet access, and a valid email account. Enter online at http://www.lifestyles.com/feelsgoodsweeps. Full official rules available at this address. Sweepstakes begins January 2, 2004 and ends March 31, 2004. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Grand prize trip dates subject to hotel and airfare availability. Approx. retail value of grand prize trip is $3,800 (trip must be taken within 18 months of sponsor's notification to the grand prize winner); 20 second-place prizes of LifeStyles Pleasure Packs, retail value $50 each. Sponsor is *Vibe* magazine, 215 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10016, and Administrator is Ansell Healthcare, Inc., 200 Schulz Drive, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Winners list available from Sponsor after May 1, 2004. Void in Florida, and where prohibited. LifeStyles® and Proven Protection That Feels Really Good!™ are trademarks of Ansell Healthcare Inc., or an affiliate. © 2003 All Rights Reserved.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

will release D.E.B.S. theatrically (with a surprising PG-13 rating, the first ever for an LGBT film) later in the year.

Another film that's certain to land at a theater near you is Ian Iqbai Rashid's TOUCH OF PINK, which was picked up for distribution by Sony Pictures Classics. Though one critic dismissed it as another incarnation of MAMBO ITALIANO and THE WEDDING BANQUET, the rousing ovation at the end of the premiere indicated that the audience loved this romantic comedy. It's the story of Alim (Jimi Mistry), a gay Ismaili Canadian whose life is interrupted when his mother shows up to find him a proper Muslim girlfriend. Everyone at the after-party couldn't stop talking about the ghost of Cary Grant (played to hilarious effect by Kyle MacLachlan), who advises Alim on the finer points of living in the closet.

Other bright spots included BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS, the directorial debut of out British actor Stephen Fry. Adapted from Evelyn Waugh's novel, "Vile Bodies," Fry employs sumptuous production design and searingly witty dialogue to zero in on the decadent social scene of 1930s London. Michael Sheen steals the show as the outlandish queer dandy, Miles, who flees to Paris to avoid British sodomy laws.

From pre-WWII London to the Bible Belt of contemporary America...SAVED! is an over-the-top comedy about a Baptist high school with one too many closets. Produced by Michael Stipe, the ensemble cast includes Macaulay Culkin, Jena Malone and Mandy Moore. One guest described the prom-themed after-party as a "fun shindig with a horrendous mix of ding-dongs, corn dogs and Hpnotiq vodka stuff."

Ruthie Shatz and Adi Barash's GARDEN, a world cinema documentary, examines the world of gay prosititues in Tel Aviv. Ryan Shiraki's HOME OF PHOBIA, which many referred to as a gay AMERICAN PIE, concerns a hetero who plays homo to get the girl. Alexandra Aja's HAUTE TENSION is a brutally twisted lesbian thriller. Ramona S. Diaz' IMELDA is just twisted—getting "beyond the shoes" for an intimate peek at the life of Imelda Marcos. Then there were the shorts (and here's a short list): BOBBYCRUSH, HUMMER, LITTLE BLACK BOOT...(see, the titles are tantalizing enough).

But, even as so many varied shades of LGBT life emerged on Park City screens this year, the one film that promised to speak the loudest to Utah's significant subculture of struggling gay Mormons was silenced. TLA Releasing called a press conference at The Queer Lounge after religious groups threatened to boycott Salt Lake City's January 30 theatrical opening of LATTER DAYS, the story of a closeted Mormon missionary who falls in love with a West Hollywood party boy.

The threats, which led Madstone Theatres to cancel the engagement, were really only part of the problem, according to the chain's president, Thomas Gruenberg, who added that LATTER DAYS failed to meet the company's standards of "artistic quality and integrity," and that the film failed to tell a story that was sufficiently "compelling" or "gripping." (The award-winning film had received a standing ovation at the Palm Springs International Film Festival the evening before it was cancelled.) At the press conference, Stephen Macias, GLAAD's new Entertainment Media Director, said that Madstone's actions were "reflective of the current climate of intolerance that the gay and lesbian community is encountering." If a silver lining can be found in the controversy, it's that awareness about the film got a major boost.

Needless to say, with so many films and so much gossip (e.g. Guinevere Turner and Rose Troche have re-teamed to pen the sequel to the lesbian hit GO FISH), there was plenty to talk about during the seemingly endless stream of parties, panels and mixers. The hopping Queer Brunch, an informal schmooze-a-thon, attracted 400 industry folk, including Paul Colichman (Co-Founder, Regent Entertainment/here! Films) who said that a massive expansion of here! TV would begin this spring. "It's morphing into a Pay-TV model," he said. "We're doing significantly better than anyone could have imagined—even me!" Indeed, in the upcoming months, here! will release two films theatrically: SHOWBOY, a mockumentary following Golden Globe-winner and "Six Feet Under" writer Christian Taylor on his quest to become a Vegas chorus boy; and MERCI, DOCTEUR REY, a Merchant-Ivory production starring Dianne Wiest, Vanessa Redgrave, Jane Birkin, Jerry Hall and Simon Callow.

That night, power programmers crowded into the secret entrance of a popular bar on Main Street for an after-hours Speakeasy. At panels and coffee klatches over the next few days, spirited debates focused on the mainstreaming of gay cinema, the future of women in film, and the prospect of inserting explicit sex into well-crafted drama (see for yourself in John Cameron Mitchell's highly anticipated SHORTBUS).

By the time the aforementioned "Homos Away From Home" party had taken over The Queer Lounge, it looked as if everyone had gotten their business out of the way and were ready to party. One guest described the scene as "very relaxed, very bohemian, and seventy-five percent queer." Cheered on by the crowd, a go-go dancer in tighty-whities gracefully spun a hula-hoop around his slender body. From this small corner of snow-white Utah, the world looked positively pink!

To find out when the queer films launched in Park City will hit their target audiences in the world at large, stay tuned to here! TV.

Here! @ Sundance is presented by here! TV, the nation's only 24-hour destination dedicated to providing a home for gay and lesbian-themed programming. here! TV is available exclusively on DIRECTV. Find out what's playing on here! TV at heretv.com.

Making Safer Safer Sex Attractive to Teens and Young Adults::

Jeffrey Brown, AIDS activist and Founder and President of House of Groove is a man on a mission to increase HIV/AIDS awareness in communities of color. Brown's company, House of Groove is a lifestyle marketing company that specializes in safer sex products and related programming. The company has developed a creative and effective marketing strategy to fundamentally change attitudes toward protection and prevention as well as HIV testing. Groove products are designed as a sophisticated brand, appealing to designer-conscious urban consumers. The company utilizes these proprietary "designer" contraceptive products and accoutrements to make responsible pleasure attractive to different target demographics, including cultural influencers/tastemakers--an important but hard-to-reach psychographic that is often immune to traditional, social marketing messages. House of Groove has successfully introduced the Please Groove Responsibly safer sex campaign using this unique platform.

Brown's latest safer sex product, the Dream cream Shag Bag, a stylish intimacy kit that holds everything necessary for a responsible evening of pleasure. In addition to the contents of our standard Shag Bag--three Groove luxury condoms, mints, lubrication and various potent aphrodisiacs--this newest edition of the Shag Bag contains the Dream Cream, a special formulation by renown New York Urologist Dr. Jed Kaminetsky that increases sexual pleasure for women. The Dream Cream Shag Bag was created to make safer sex pleasurable and fashionable.

Please Groove Responsibly

Audre Lorde

Poet, Warrior, Mother

1934-1992

Lorde on Poetry and Activism

As we come more into touch with our own ancient, non-european consciousness of living as a situation to be experienced and interacted with, we learn more and more to cherish our feelings, and to respect those hidden sources of our power from where true knowledge and, therefore, lasting action comes."

I speak here of poetry as a revelatory distillation of experience, not the sterile word play that, too often, the white fathers distorted the word poetry to mean--in order to cover a desperate wish for imagination without insight."

For women, then, poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence. It forms the quality of the light within which we predicate our hopes and dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into idea, then into more tangible action. Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences of our daily lives."

As they become known to and accepted by us, our feelings and the honest exploration of them become sanctuaries and spawning grounds for the most radical and daring of ideas. They become a safe-house for that difference so necessary to change and the conceptualization of any meaningful action. Right now, I could name at least ten ideas I would have found intolerable or incomprehensible and frightening, except as they came after dreams and poems. This is not idle fantasy, but a disciplined attention to the true meaning of "it feels right to me." We can train ourselves to respect our feelings and to transpose them into a language so they can be shared. And where that language does not yet exist, it is our poetry which helps to fashion it. Poetry is not only dream and vision; it is the skeleton architecture of our lives. It lays the foundations for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been before."

Lorde, Audre. "Poetry Is Not a Luxury." Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 1984. 36-39.

Tanqueray
IMPORTED
DISTILLED FOUR TIMES.
MADE FROM THE WORLD'S FINEST BOTANICALS.
LONDON DRY GIN

the L word™

Finally, a full season of lesbian drama—one episode and you're hooked.

NEW EPISODES
SUNDAYS 10 PM ET PT

SHOWTIME®

HOOK UP WITH SHOWTIME AND GET $25 CASH BACK

CALL: 1-877-L WORD NOW

To receive your rebate: write your name, address (email address is optional – by providing your email address you authorize Showtime and its promotional partners to send you periodic information) on a 3 x 5 card and mail it along with your first two months' original bills dated between 11/01/03 through 4/30/04 indicating your new SHOWTIME subscription to: Showtime Rebate Offer, P.O. Box 2288, Dept. LW, Grand Rapids, MN 55745-2288.

Rebate is available to new SHOWTIME subscribers only. This rebate cannot be combined with any other SHOWTIME promotional offer. Limit one SHOWTIME promotional offer per household in any 12-month period. Your rebate will be mailed to you within 8-10 weeks after the receipt of the above mentioned documents. Keep a copy for your files. Your response must be postmarked by 5/15/04 and received by 5/31/04. ©2004 Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. SHOWTIME and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a Viacom Company.

SHO.com

TV MA AC